this when I was talking with the Adviser to the Travancore-Cochin Government. But I do not know whether any positive steps are being taken in that direction.

General Elections

* 2 (SHORT NOTICE) *Q.*—SRI N. K. PALANISAMY : Will the Hon. the Minister for Finance be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether the Government have suggested to the Central Government during 1956 any new method of voting during the coming general elections; and

(*b*) if so, the details thereof?

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM : (*a*) The Election Commission has invited the remarks of the State Governments about the introduction of the system of marking on ballot papers of voting at elections in Assembly and Parliamentary constituencies in select areas (*e.g.*, urban areas where the literate classes preponderate) in the next general elections. It is proposed to inform the Commission that the new scheme may be tried as an experimental measure in all the constituencies in Madras City alone in the next general elections.

(*b*) Under the new system the names (and if possible, symbols) of the candidates will be printed on the ballot paper and the elector will have to place a mark secretly against the name of the candidate of his choice and then fold the ballot paper so as to conceal the mark or marks from observation. One ballot box only will be kept in full view of the presiding officer, the candidates and their agents and the elector will insert the ballot paper into the ballot box within their view. The detailed procedure to be followed will have to be worked out by the Government of India, in consultation with the Election Commission, and prescribed by suitable amendments to the rules.

SRI K. VINAYAKAM : In the light of the experience we have gained—viz., that this kind of marking on the ballot paper is very cumbersome in the sense that if there are twelve candidates in a constituency, all the twelve symbols allotted to those candidates have got to be printed on the paper with the result the illiterate voter will be confused while marking the symbol of the candidate for whom he wants to vote—will the Government of Madras advise the Central Government not to adopt this system which will not be an improvement on the system adopted at the previous elections?

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM : That is why the Government of Madras have recommended to the Central Government and to the Election Commission that this could be tried in the City constituencies where there is a greater amount of literacy and where the voters are better-informed.

SRI S. PANCHAKSHARAM : The Government have felt that each candidate being allotted a box has led to abuse in that the

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voter was able to take out the ballot paper and hand it over to such persons who are prepared to take it after paying for it. Why not they now recommend to the Centre that the system of marking introduced by them during the recent local bodies and municipal elections may be tried during the ensuing general elctions?

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM: The hon. Member evidently wants that we should recommend to the Election Commission that this system should be introduced throughout the country. There are some practical difficulties in the matter and the necessary preparations cannot be made within the short time available now. That is why, we have recommended to the Government of India to have this as an experimental measure in the City constituency.

SRI M. NARAYANA KURUP: A large number of questions have been put on the floor of this House and opinions expressed on this question. While conveying their views to the Election Commission, have the Government conveyed also the views of the Members sitting on this side of the House that they are opposed to it and do not favour such a practice? 10-20 a.m.

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM: All the difficulties involved in this system also have been pointed out to the Election Commission. But it is only a question of comparative merits, a question of deciding which is better. As far as we are concerned I have absolutely no doubt that the marking system is better. But certain conditions have to be satisfied for that purpose such as a general level of literacy. That is why we have recommended that it may be tried first in the City of Madras.

UNSTARRED QUESTIONS.

Malayalee Non-Gazetted Officers transferred to Tamil districts

8 *Q.*—SRI K. MADHAVAN NAMBIAR: Will the Hon. the Minister for Finance be pleased to state the number of Malayalee Non-Gazetted Officers transferred to Tamil districts from the district of Malabar after 1st March 1956?

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM: The Government consider that the collection of the information will involve a good deal of time and labour which will not be commensurate with the purpose served.

Appointment of Deputy Superintendents of Police

9 *Q.*—SRI M. KATTIMUTHU: Will the Hon. the Minister for Finance be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether it is a fact that six additional Deputy Superintendents of Police were appointed in South Arcot district recently and if so, the reasons therefor;